Community Services



Public Education



Professional Education



Research



It is through our eyes that we experience the full dimension of the world around us. Since 1908, the National Society to Prevent Blindness has had one mission: the preservation of sight.

This Annual Report highlights the strides the Society has made in its community services, its public education program, in professional education and research.

Without the potent force provided by the volunteers of the National Society and its Affiliates—the men and women who make this organization a voluntary health agency and give it its national strength—this progress would not have been possible.



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Report of the President

Gerald Z. Dubinski, Sr.

I am pleased to report that we are financially stable, which allows us to not only continue but expand our 77-year mission of saving sight. Our public support and revenues reached a new high during fiscal year 1984. More and more people recognize the value of our work and generously support us with contributions. Last year more than 74 percent of our expenses went to research, public education, professional education and training, and community services.

During this year, we conducted a national study of attitudes toward blindness and blindness prevention. What do people know about preventing blindness, how familiar are they with the actual causes of blindness in adults, and what do they know about the National Society? These were questions we needed answered before developing planning strategies for the future.

Some of the findings that emerged from this national survey suggest the need for an expanded public information campaign on blindness prevention focusing on the facts and fallacies regarding eye diseases and eye care. When respondents were asked about the importance of national health problems or diseases which are of personal concern, blindness emerged as the third behind cancer and heart disease.

The unveiling of a three-year program plan in January was the culmination of months of intensive work by volunteer members of the Program Committee and staff. Two major priorities were established for the period 1985-1988: visual quality of life for the older adult and sight saving in sports.

In addition, a proposal for a total Nationwide Strategic Plan was approved in March and is underway. I have appointed a representative Task Force to meet on a regular basis, with the overall mission of bringing

Affiliates and National Leadership together as a unified force in recommending common goals to the policy making bodies of this organization.

You may remember that in my report to you last year I stated that my personal goal for the Society was a doubling of our glaucoma screenings in 1984-1985. This was set to challenge and motivate the affiliates to increase their glaucoma screenings. The result has been rewarding as Kentucky, Massachusetts and Virginia more than doubled their screenings and Rhode Island, Georgia and Wisconsin screened the greatest percentage of their populations, age 35 and over. From January through December 1984, 177,982 Americans were screened for glaucoma. and 4,890 were referred to physicians.

We are beginning a new era of growth for the Society. Currently we have 26 affiliates and have just organized a New York City Area Office that will serve the five boroughs. Committees have been appointed and staff positions are now being filled. We believe that our mission includes prevention of blindness throughout the USA, and it is our hope to expand our services to all areas where need exists.

I am pleased that Michael L. Weamer was chosen as our Executive Director. He started with us in November and has already contributed to strengthening the Society through sound management practices and energetic, imaginative leadership.

Last, but far from least, I express my personal appreciation to all our dedicated staff and volunteers in all 26 Affiliates and the National Office who truly are NSPB. It is through their combined efforts that we have shown growth and reached our goals this past year.

Gerald Z. Dubinski, Sr. President

Report of the Executive Director



Michael L. Weamer

Being selected as Executive Director of the National Society to Prevent Blindness this past September was a tremendous honor. Following in the footsteps of great leaders such as Mrs. Virginia Boyce has not only been a real challenge, but an opportunity to build upon 77 years of dedicated leadership.

Although I have only been Executive Director for a few short months, it did not take long to recognize the exceptional caliber of our volunteers nationwide. NSPB is blessed by the participation of "world class" ophthalmologists and community-minded volunteers who are deeply committed to preventing blindness and protecting sight.

In addition to outstanding volunteer participation, our dedicated staff members have always focused on providing top quality programs such as preschool vision screening, eye safety and glaucoma screening. Although results of our program efforts are not easy to measure, we know of many heartwarming stories from throughout America where preventable blindness has been identified and sight saved as a direct result of one of our programs. Thanks to the support of our many contributors, efforts like these will expand in the years ahead.

One of my major priorities this first year was to visit as many affiliates as possible to meet volunteers and staff and receive direct input into national priorities. At the time of this report, I have visited 17 affiliates which has resulted in a new nationwide sense of unity and enthusiasm for our mission and recognition on my part of the extraordinary human resources we have available in our affiliates.

We have also begun to test innovative fund-raising techniques, and plans have been developed to revitalize several affiliates that are experiencing difficult times. In addition, our New York City Area Office will be in

operation by the time this report is published. For the first time in our history, residents of New York City will have a comprehensive, local Prevent Blindness organization to serve them. Initial programs will most likely include glaucoma screenings, corporate and sports eye safety programs, and public education.

As previously reported by President Gerald Z. Dubinski, Sr., we are currently developing a three-year strategic plan for our nationwide organization. We are the first national health agency to develop a plan of this scope, and the end result will be a blueprint for success for all aspects of our operations. I have no doubt we will look back upon this process as one of the most important endeavors ever undertaken by our Society.

And lastly, I would like to affirm that the National Society to Prevent Blindness will continue to take a leadership role in the prevention of blindness. Through the continued efforts of thousands of volunteers and staff members, one of our greatest senses —VISION—will be saved.

Thank you for your continued support.

Michael L. Weamer Executive Director

Community Services

"We must never lose sight of the fact that provision of program services is the foremost purpose of the National Society and only through collaborative efforts will we have the necessary impact on vision problems in the United States."

Michael L. Weamer Executive Director

In 1982, the National Society initiated its first three-year program plan. It was based on the long-range program recommendations of the special volunteer task forces that met in the 1970s. A team of staff members synthesized these recommendations and evaluated current national and affiliate programs to determine which ones would have the greatest impact on blindness prevention.

Two years into the plan, the Society realized that the great majority of the three-year goals and objectives were completed in 18 months.

Ready to venture boldly into the second half of the '80s, NSPB unveiled the 1985-1988 three-year program plan to members of the volun-

teer leadership and staff of the National Society and its affiliates in January 1985.

Two major priorities were established: visual quality of life for the older adult and sight saving in sports. Other programs such as children's eye health and eye safety will continue, but our major thrust will be on these priorities.

One of the findings revealed in the national survey we conducted this year was the striking contrast between attitudes and practices of parents regarding eye examinations for their preschool children. It showed that eight out of ten parents of young children believe children should have an eye examination before they begin school. However, the reality is that 54 percent of parents of three-to-five-year olds say their children have not been to an eye doctor.

An estimated 474,000 preschoolers, ages three to five, have vision problems. This is the reason why preschool vision screening is one of



OHIO AFFILIATE'S 1984 Poster Child, Ellyn Wirth.

Community Services

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the Society's principal community services.

To bring standardization and uniformity to our training materials and procedures, a comprehensive training program—including color cartoon slide/audio cassette, Leader's Guide and Screener's Handbook—was developed for trainers of preschool vision screeners. This training program has been provided to all the affiliates.

Screenings are held at daycare centers, nursery schools, kindergartens, museums, zoos and shopping malls. Milwaukee County Zoo's "A to Zoo Days," a special weekend of activities for preschoolers, was an opportunity

for the Wisconsin Affiliate to screen 260 children.

In a one-year period 281,700 preschoolers were screened by NSPB affiliates and 11.374 were referred to physicians. Five-year-old James Hawes of Florida was screened by Prevent Blindness at his school. This was the second vision screening for him in four months. His left eye indicated a possible case of amblyopia or lazy eye. Amblyopia occurs when one eye develops good vision while the other does not. To treat it, the child must be forced to use the weak eye. This is usually done by patching or covering the good eye. "Not until James had the second vision screening were we alerted to the fact that his left eve was weaker than his right."



McDONALD'S JOINED FORCES with NSPB's Florida Affiliate-West Coast Area during September Sight-Saving Month. James Hawes and Sirod Evans, a McDonald's employee, distribute the Society's free Home Eye Test for Preschoolers.

said James' mother, "and that there was a risk of complete loss of vision if not treated."



When four-year-old Ellyn Wirth of Grove City, Ohio, tried on her new eyeglasses, she saw her mother clearly for the first time. What makes Ellyn's story different is that her eye problem was found at age 2½ when she could more quickly respond to treatment.

"We were shocked to find out about Ellyn's eye problems," Mrs. Wirth said. "Here I am a school nurse ... and I check kids' eyes all the time ... but no one had any idea Ellyn was having trouble."

Ellyn was the 1984 Poster Child for the Ohio Affiliate of NSPB, representing 22,500 Ohio preschoolers.



Sandee Fote is six years old, a professional model, has amblyopia and was NSPB-New Jersey's "Child of the Year" for 1984. Now in the second grade, Sandee's vision problem was discovered while she was still in nursery school at an annual vision screening program.

Because of her modeling career, her "lazy eye" was treated with a blackened contact lens instead of the traditional eye patch. Today, thanks to that early detection and prompt treatment, Sandee's vision in her weaker eye has improved.



KCCI-TV teamed up with the lowa Society last October to hold the first Sight-Saving Saturday. The purpose was twofold: to educate lowans on the importance of early detection and treatment of vision problems, and to provide vision screenings to children from three to six years old,



SANDEE FOTE'S AMBLYOPIA was discovered in an annual vision screening program while she was in nursery school.

and glaucoma testing for adults 35 and over.

Publicity was the key to success and through the combined efforts of the lowa Society and KCCI-TV — plus the cooperation of pharmacies, libraries, local community groups and newspapers, central lowa was saturated with flyers, posters, press releases carrying information about Sight-Saving Saturday. Six TV public service announcements, which ran from September 15 to November 15, promoting Sight-Saving Saturday were produced by KCCI-TV.

Society volunteers and staff recruited and trained 30 volunteer groups in central lowa. More than 240 volunteers participated in the preschool vision screening portion, providing free screenings for 1,064 youngsters, with 62 children being referred to a physician for possible vision problems.

Free glaucoma screenings were held in six locations in Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Marshalltown and Nevada. Ophthalmologists and certified

KENTUCKY SOCIETY SALUTED

NSPB—Kentucky Affiliate has been awarded the Kentucky Public Health Association Group Award in 1985 for its work "toward the enhancement of the health status of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Society has been the coordinating force bringing individuals and groups together for One Purpose: Saving Sight. The Kentucky Affiliate is Partners in Prevention with physicians, local health departments, Lions Clubs, PTAs and all other interested citizens and organizations. Not only do they direct individuals toward proper medical treatment in a time of need, but they are also responsible for making thousands upon thousands of persons aware of the need for periodic preventive health testing.

Community Services

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ophthalmic technicians conducted the tests. More than 435 adults were screened, with 50 referred for examination because of higher than normal eye pressure.



A pilot project spearheaded by Donald Armstrong, Ph.D., of the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Florida, and sponsored by the Alachua County Lions Sight Foundation in conjunction with TV Channels 5, 8 and 20 in Gainesville, offered viewers the opportunity to take the NSPB TV Eye Test. A statewide program in cooperation with Lions, using the TV Eye Test, is set for later this year.



The Society wages an aggressive campaign against the "sneak thief of sight"—glaucoma—through its community screening programs. One out of every seven blind people you see is a victim of glaucoma. During its first stages, the pressure of fluid in the front of the eyeball increases, but there are no symptoms that are noticeable. That's why the best defense against glaucoma is an eye

TAKE THE GLAUCOMA QUIZ... ARE YOU AT HIGH RISK FOR GLAUCOMA?

- □ over 35, especially over 65?□ family history of glaucoma?
- ☐ black?
- ☐ diabetic?*
- ☐ have high blood pressure?
- ☐ had an eye injury or surgery?
- ☐ taking cortisone medication?

A "yes" to one or more means a checkup every one or two years.

*Diabetics are also at risk for retinopathy, a leading cause of blindness. Get a yearly check.



NSPB PRACTICES WHAT IT PREACHES. Glaucoma screenings were offered during 1984 Annual Meeting.

examination at least once every two years.

From January through December 1984, the National Society screened 177,982 Americans for glaucoma, referring 4,890 to physicians.

In Mississippi, glaucoma screenings were offered to employees at Levi Strauss, at three Mississippi Power and Light facilities, International Paper Co., Delta Electric, Tecumsah and Day Brite Industries, Packard Electric, to name a few. The Mississippi Affiliate also trained the nurses at United Technologies, who in turn screened 1,304 for glaucoma.

At AT&T, 2,500 employees were given the chance to be screened by company personnel trained by the Virginia Affiliate.

Public Education

The goal of the Society's public education program is to alert and inform the public about eye care and eye safety. To be effective, the Society needed to learn what the public knows about preventing blindness, what they know about the various eye diseases, what causes them and what their symptoms are. To gather this information, a telephone survey was conducted of a random sample of 1,001 men and women across the country.

Concern about blindness was found to be very widespread. Indeed, blindness is seen as second only to cancer as the disease that is the "worst that can happen to you."

Findings also show that there are misconceptions and ignorance about eye diseases, and that the majority of Americans are confused about the causes, warning signs and treatment

of glaucoma. These findings reaffirm the need for an accelerated public education program on glaucoma.

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The "Save the Clouds...Sunsets... Rainbows..." campaign created by volunteer advertising agency, Lord. Geller, Federico, Einstein, continued on radio, television and in the print media. This theme dramatizes the loss of nature's beauty when vision is gone. The "Save the Clouds" ad appeared often in such publications as Business Week, Family Circle, House & Garden, National Geographic Traveler, San Francisco. Time and Vanity Fair as well as in eight medical publications including the New England Journal of Medicine. The television announcements were scheduled on all three major networks throughout the year.

Celebrities who graciously recorded our educational radio spots included: Helen Hayes, Porter Wagoner, Connie Smith, Jamie Farr, Steve Allen, William Windom, Ricardo Montalban and Bon Howard

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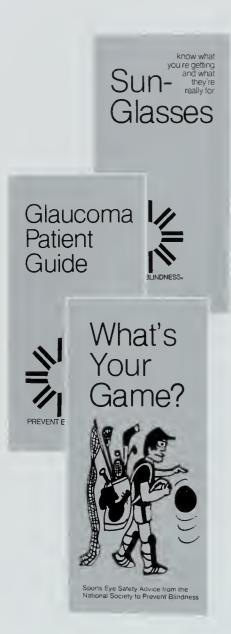
During this past report year, more than 2,700,000 publications were distributed, with over 254,000 requests for "Glaucoma, Sneak Thief of Sight"; 330,000 for "How to Jump-Start a Car Safely" sticker; and 214,000 for the "Home Eye Test for Preschoolers."

Channels of distribution are one of the key elements in marketing a product or a service. And they play a pivotal role in the Society's efforts to reach the public. The affiliates are, of course, a primary channel of distribution. Others include, in addition to print and broadcast media, state departments of education, health care



Public Education

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providers, clubs and organizations, employee groups and drug store and food chains. Through this teamwork, the Society's educational material reaches a wider audience.

The New Jersey State Department of Education, for example, printed 10,500 copies of a revised school eye safety manual, while the Affiliate's Eye Safety Committee played a key role in preparing the revision.

With grant money from the New Haven Foundation and Hartford Foundation, the Connecticut Society launched a cooperative program with the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Association for the distribution of the Society's Home Eye Test for Preschoolers, in English and Spanish, through pharmacies in 61 towns in Connecticut.

A 21-page School Eye Health and Safety Manual was delivered to Georgia School Curriculum Directors, a gift of sight from the Georgia food chain, Piggly Wiggly. Prepared by the Safety Committee of the Georgia Society, it contains data on eye hazards in school sports and in lab and shop classes, in workshops at home, and on the farm.

One of the most popular public education pieces distributed by the National Society has been the "Home Eye Test for Preschoolers." It is designed to reach directly into the home, gives simple instructions, allowing parents to be the screeners.

More than 124,000 of them were ordered by affiliates for distribution this past year, while such diverse organizations as Medicine Shoppe International, St. Louis; the New York City Department of Health, and the Nevada Elks, among many others, also distributed the tests.

First introduced in 1972, it has been reproduced and distributed (and in some instances translated)

in Japan, India, Australia, West Germany, Argentina and Canada.

Big strides were taken in our eye safety education program with the production of three compelling audio-visual presentations:

Vision: A Treasure to Guard—dramatically depicts four incidents where the potential risks of eye injury were ignored, and shows how 90 percent of all off-the-job eye injuries could be prevented. It won the Silver Screen Award at the U.S. Industrial Film Festival.

Eye Safety on the Farm—examines the potentially sight-threatening jobs a farmer may perform in one day, and the practical, effective ways to guard sight. This production received a Blue Ribbon at the annual Educational Aids Competition of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers.

Battery Safety Curriculum Kit—targeted to the general public—and to young people in driver education and automotive instruction classes. Includes the audio-visual, "Out of Mind, Out of Sight," leader's guide, pre/post tests, battery jump-starting instructions and student workbook masters. This kit was funded by grants from members of Battery Council International.

New and revised publications placed in distribution this past year:

What's Your Game?—good advice on how to protect your eyes in sports, and urges participants to wear eye protection appropriate to the game.

21 Questions—answers the most often asked questions about the use of safety eyewear.

Sunglasses...know what you're getting and what they're really for—im-

portant tips to help consumers make wise choices when buying sunglasses.

Glaucoma Patient Guide—explains in easy-to-understand language important facts about the disease, how it affects sight, and the latest medical treatment to control this vision-threatening disease.

Ad/2 Atlanta—a young professionals organization for people under 30 with careers in advertising and related fields—created a prize-winning statewide public service advertising campaign for the Georgia Society.

"Don't Lose Sight" was the theme of the campaign which included radio and TV spots, print ads and billboards. Ad/2 won first place for this campaign in the Regional and Na-



SAFETY GLASSES protected Delmarva Power's Tom Davis from eye injury.

tional competitions of the Ad/2 Chapter of the American Advertising Federation for Public Service Campaigns.

The Georgia Society was chosen from among all those who applied to Ad/2 because it fits the criteria of having the potential to help nearly every person in Georgia.

The Society's Wise Owl Club continues to be an essential element in NSPB's eye safety program. This eye protection incentive program offers membership to employees and students who save their sight through wearing proper eye protection at the time of a potentially blinding accident. During this past year 1,494 individuals qualified for membership; 315 new chapters were formed, 41 of which were school chapters. There are now a total of 11,050 chapters in the United States including 512 in schools.

Here is what Delmarva Power & Light Co., Delaware, wrote about its Wise Owl Club.

"An aggressive program was pursued not only to provide the tools to do jobs safely, such as prescription safety glasses, but also to increase the awareness of potential hazards both on and off the job.

"This safety program is led by a strong commitment from senior management. Employees are accountable for accidents within their own departments and they participate in regular safety meetings, inspections, and audits.

"The employees of Delmarva Power are making the safety program work. They're looking out for each other and preventing accidents before they happen. They've reduced the amount of pain and anxiety caused by accidents and have saved money for the company and customers."



READY WHEN YOU ARE, ALBERT!

"Eye to Eye with Albert," a 13-minute color videotape for children between the ages of three and eight, was produced by WITI-TV in Milwaukee for the Wisconsin Affiliate. It stars Albert, the Alleycat, and his guests: children Leticia and Steven, and Jean Schott, M.D., pediatric ophthalmologist.

Among the topics talked about by Albert and his guests are the eye and how it works, how to take care of your eyes, the importance of wearing glasses and how to practice eye safety at home, school and play.

The videotape is being shown in kindergartens and daycare centers as part of the Affiliate's preschool vision screening program.

Raising Awareness and Raising Funds



"THE MOST BEAUTIFUL EYES IN CONNECTICUT" contest was initiated to call attention to the importance of wearing protective eyewear on the job.



(I to r) The Honorable Terry Sanford, president of Duke University, and John T. Church, Sight-Saving chairman, and member of the North Carolina House of Representatives.

The imagination and creativity of NSPB's affiliates are demonstrated in the variety of ways they choose to raise awareness and raise funds.

"People of Vision" dinners are a preferred event at many affiliates as these events serve a dual purpose of honoring an outstanding citizen and raising funds needed to continue the Society's sight-saving programs.

One thousand of Houston's most powerful and dedicated citizens gathered in the Imperial Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency to pay tribute to Robert Mosbacher, chairman and C.E.O., Mosbacher Production Co., when he was honored by the Texas Society as its "Man of Vision."

The Honorable Terry Sanford, president of Duke University and former governor of North Carolina, was the honoree at North Carolina's 1984 "People of Vision" dinner. Making the presentation was John T. Church, Sight-Saving chairman and past president of NSPB-North Carolina, chairman of the Board Emeritus, Roses Stores, Inc., and member, North Carolina House of Representatives.

The "Most Beautiful Eyes Contest" was the brainchild of the Connecticut Affiliate, and they've been holding a contest every year since 1983. It was first launched to celebrate Connecticut's 30th anniversary and to call attention to the importance of protective eye safety wear. Results were far more than expected as it provided excellent publicity and added an exciting dimension to a dinner dance.

Never one to look a "gift fundraiser in the eye," Texas, Florida and Mississippi are among the affiliates who have had or are planning "Most Beautiful Eyes in ..." contests.



Louisville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Gamma played Santa Claus to both the children of Louisville and the Kentucky Affiliate. A special holiday treat of story-telling, crafts, goodies and gift shopping called "Vision of Sugarplums" was presented at the Museum of History and Science to benefit the Affiliate's preschool vision screening program.

Nashville switched to swingtime this past September all for a good cause. It was the Nashville Banner "Swing for Sight Hole-in-One" contest to benefit the Tennessee Society to Prevent Blindness. Proceeds from the

event were used for free eye screenings for elementary and kindergarten students.

Greenville, S.C. flipped out over "Flip for Sight," an annual South Carolina Affiliate fund-raising event open statewide to gymnasts 7 to 18 years old. One hundred twenty-five youngsters flipped to raise more than \$1,200. Volunteer Pam King, shown here with the "class of 1990," trains the gymnasts—sponsored by friends and neighbors—who compete for prizes donated by local merchants.



VOLUNTEER Pam King tutors a class of gymnasts for a future "Flip for Sight."



David A. Greenspan, M.D., (I), president, Houston Board of Texas Society, congratulates Bob Mosbacher, 1984 "Man of Vision."

Professional Education

"The last 10 years have been the most exciting decade in the history of ophthalmology," remarked Frank W. Newell, M.D., chairman of the Board of Directors of the Society and chairman of its 1984 Scientific Conference. At the biennial event, nine distinguished researchers described recent ophthalmic achievements.

Dr. Newell, professor of ophthal-mology at the University of Chicago, and editor of *The American Journal* of *Ophthalmology*, moderated the program, "Scientific Progress in Blindness Prevention," held in New York City in September. Joining Dr. Newell as program advisor was Arnall Patz, M.D., director, the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute, The Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Lasers, new medications, new machines that allow a safer, more revealing portrait of the inside of the living brain, new surgical procedures, sophisticated computers, and rigorous field studies all figured in the landmark contributions to blindness prevention.

The Society continues to sponsor a "state of the art" symposium on glaucoma at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. This year's symposium entitled, "What's New in Glaucoma?", was moderated by William E. Layden, M.D., professor and chairman, Department of Ophthalmology, College of Medicine, University of South Florida, Tampa, and attracted close to 3,000 attendees.

At this joint AAO-NSPB session, the Fifth Annual Robert N. Shaffer Glaucoma Lecture was delivered by Stephen Drance, M.D., professor of Ophthalmology and chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of British Columbia, Canada. Dr. Drance currently serves as president of the Glaucoma Society of the International Congress of Oph-

thalmology and is president of the International Perimetric Society.

Glaucoma detection, children's eye problems and eye safety are stressed in NSPB's services to professionals.

One of the objectives is to provide a resource of current information for professionals concerned with eye health and eye care. This includes a broad spectrum of medical practitioners in various specialties as well as nurses, public health professionals, educators, safety professionals and governmental and voluntary agencies.

A second goal is to enlist professionals in promoting, implementing or sponsoring NSPB's educational and detection programs and services.

"Detection of Vision Problems in Young Children," a program for pediatricians, family and general practitioners and nurses who work with children, was sponsored by the Washington Affiliate. Sixty-eight medical specialists attended and encouraged the Society to "take the show on the road." As a result two more programs were held this Spring outside the Seattle area.

"Glaucoma Screening and Emergency Eye Care in the Occupational Setting," a workshop sponsored by the Mississippi Affiliate, was approved by the Mississippi Nurses' Association for 4:5 contact hours of continuing education. Contact hours are units that nurses accumulate in order to qualify for or maintain their license.

NSPB—New Jersey, in cooperation with the Glassboro State College's School Nursing Program and the

Office of Adult Continuing Education, took its professional education program for nurses to Glassboro State College located in the southern part of the state. It focused on vision problems of children with special needs such as the physically handicapped and mentally retarded, two groups with a much greater incidence of vision problems than the rest of the population.



NSPB — North Carolina Affiliate collaborated with the state Department of Public Instruction in training 60 new trade and industrial teachers regarding eye safety as part of an ongoing effort with vocational education.



The South Carolina Affiliate participated in the "19th Annual Kindergarten Workshop" sponsored by the Department of Child and Family Services of the College of Applied Professional Sciences at the University of South Carolina.

"Vision Problems and Detection in Children," a six-hour course related to specific children's eye problems, was co-sponsored by the Northern California Society and John Muir Memorial Hospital. It was approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing for 6 continuing education contact hours.

NSPB—Southern California, the Tri-County Society of Ophthalmology and the Orange County Society of Ophthalmology—with a grant from Merck, Sharp and Dohme—presented "Glaucoma 1984: Diagnosis and Management" in December. The program was designed to provide education for the physician, resident and related medical personnel in the

field of ophthalmology. It featured lectures on the ocular hypertensive patient, diagnosis and management of angle closure glaucoma, the use of the laser in the treatment of glaucoma, and the use of drug therapy.

NSPB's Conrad Berens Library, which acts as a resource center for physicians, researchers, students, nurses and writers, has compiled a computerized data base of selected eye care articles and pamphlets. The library also has the capacity to access the National Library of Medicine's data base.



Frank W. Newell, M.D., chairman of the 1984 Scientific Conference, with some of the conference presenters, Drs. Deborah Pavan Langston, Harvard Medical School; Irene Maumenee, The Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute; Myron Yanoff, Scheie Eye Institute, University of Pennsylvania; and Daniel Finkelstein, The Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute.

Research

Research, whether in the laboratory or in patient trials, provides the cutting edge for the treatment advances of tomorrow; and since 1946, support for research projects relating to prevention of blindness has been an important part of Society services. This year the Society awarded 30 grants totaling \$242, 314, funding projects ranging from biological studies of normal and abnormal eyes, to evaluations of new medical treatments and new tests for assessing eye function.

The Society's financial support of eve and vision research is primarily directed to young scientific investigators at universities and medical centers, to allow them to proceed down new pathways toward better diagnosis and controls of disorders and diseases that lead to loss of vision. Applications are reviewed and studies selected for funding by NSPB's nationally representative Committee on Basic and Clinical Research, headed by Steven M. Podos, M.D., professor and chairman, Department of Ophthalmology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York.

Here are the major areas of research supported by NSPB this year, and the objectives of the projects.

RETINAL STUDIES

Ten projects focus on the biochemistry of the eye's retina, and aim to detail the causes of abnormal cell interactions that can lead to retinal diseases and loss of vision. The retina, situated at the rear of the eye and acting as the switchboard between the eye and the brain, is composed of compact layers of specialized cells which function together to translate the information entering the eye in the form of light into the nerve signals we know as sight.

Several investigators are studying the light-sensitive retinal structures

known as rods and cones-the photoreceptor system. Other studies are directed to the retinal layer known as the pigment epithelium, composed of "caretaker" cells for the photoreceptor system; and the area between the epithelium and the nerve cells, which may be a storehouse of nutrients and cell-to-cell messengers, which are often proteins. The sending and receiving of cellular messages is critical to the healthy function of the retinal layers; and breakdowns in the communication system can lead to such disorders as retinal detachment, macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa. How and why vital messages don't get through, or don't even get sent. will be detailed, as groundwork to correct or supplement faulty or weak cellular messengers or receptors.

A cell, the pericyte, may be overly strict in allowing blood flow and oxygen through the small blood vessels (capillaries) of the retina, and one researcher will investigate its role in proliferative retinopathy and retinal detachment. Retinal damage from too much light is the subject of another study. And one investigator is studying refinements in laser treatment of the retina, in an effort to select laser wavelengths that can target one retinal layer while sparing others.

EYE INFLAMMATION

Inflammation of the pigmented tissues of the eye—the uvea, or the iris, ciliary body and choroid considered together—can cause loss of vision and can be an autoimmune process. An autoimmune disease is one in which the body's immune response, directed by white blood cells, turns against one's own tissues, treating them as foreign tissue to be destroyed. One project will examine how and why uveal cells, kept alive in lab dishes, are targeted as ab-

normal or foreign by the blood cells. Another study of autoimmune uveal inflammation will test eye drops of the new drug Cyclosporine as a treatment to deter the immune response and therefore reduce or stop inflammation.

One researcher will test another alternative to steroids in the treatment of eye inflammation. (Steroids are effective in controlling inflammation, but have undesirable side effects.) The drugs to be tested are known as calcium chelating agents, to be given in combination with anti-inflammatory drugs (non-steroid) such as aspirin.

CORNEAL DAMAGE

Six grant projects are devoted to the biochemistry of the cornea (the normally clear outer window of the eye) and what happens to cause a loss of transparency, and loss of vision. A corneal abrasion can lead to an ulceration or infection, and one researcher will investigate why white blood cells—the promoters of the body's fight against foreign invaders—seem to hinder healing, when no infectious agents are present. A protein, fibronectin, which promotes corneal wound healing, is being analyzed by another researcher. When antibio-



VIRGINIA BOYCE RESEARCH FUND gives first grant to Martin B. Wax, M.D., an ophthalmologist at the Scheie Eye Institute, Philadelphia. Dr. Wax, shown here with Virginia Boyce, former executive director of NSPB, is studying the mechanisms of the eye tissue response to glaucoma drugs, and the resulting actions taken by eye cells that bear on successful regulation of internal eye pressure.

Research

continued



Kenneth R. Alexander, Ph.D., Eye & Ear Infirmary, University of Illinois, recipient of one of NSPB's 1984 research grants.

tics are given to prevent bacterial infection of corneal wounds, they may slow healing; to discover which antibiotics, and why, is the objective of another study.

Fluid accumulation is a cause of loss of corneal transparency, and the problem represents a failure of the barrier layer at the back of the cornea; how this layer of cells can be boosted to efficiency by various chemicals and drugs is under study. The cornea's film of tears is critical in keeping the eye surface wet, and also serves as a barrier to penetration by bacteria and viruses; deficiencies in tear formation, which can result in eye diseases, are being analyzed in another study.

GLAUCOMA

Glaucoma, a leading cause of blindness, is usually due to abnormally high fluid pressure within the eye. This results in stress damage in the back of the eye—to the retina or optic nerve. One recently developed way of relieving the high fluid pressure is to create a larger path for fluid to leave the eye, by means of laser-cut channels. This procedure is being tested in lab animals by one researcher. Another study, supported by the Virginia S. Boyce Research Fund, aims to document why drug treatments to control glaucoma lose their effectiveness over time; improvements in drug scheduling are the goal.

Prostaglandin, a substance produced in many bodily tissues, and which promotes contraction of dilation, can reduce eye pressure; its effectiveness and safety will be tested in animals, prior to its possible use as a glaucoma drug for humans. A new class of drug in the treatment of glaucoma, called the alpha adrenergic antagonists, will be tested for effectiveness and safety in another study.

CATARACT

Cataract is the clouding of the eye's lens, and a major cause of vision loss. The cells in the eye's lens—an essential focusing agent for light rays in the process of sight—are a stable line of "pure" cells throughout a person's life.

Genetic abnormalities may increase susceptibility to cataracts; and one investigator will attempt to target the genetic origin (the chromosomal location and peculiarity) of chemical changes that are linked to cataract

formation. In another study, an investigator will attempt to establish the normal metabolic messages that are sent and received among the cells of the lens, and will chart a particular protein that seems to be essential in cell-to-cell communication. This will allow a basis for comparison, in examining what goes wrong in lens disorders.

See next page for NSPB's 1985 Research Grants

Fellowship Recipient Studies New Drug Treatment to Prevent Rejection of Corneal Transplants

While transplanted corneas have provided many people with restored vision, rejection of the grafts remains a serious obstacle to successful treatment—rejection by a recipient's immune response to tissue that comes from another person. Supported by a fellowship of the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, Catherine Newton, M.D., Louisiana State University Medical Center, will evaluate the drug Cyclosporine in eye drop form as a deterrent to corneal graft rejection.

Cyclosporine is a new drug which has been used successfully in preventing rejection of transplanted kidneys; however when taken orally the drug causes significant and sometimes severe side effects in other parts of the body-systemic side effects. Dr. Newton will investigate the use of Cyclosporine eve drops in animals with transplanted corneas, in an effort to establish effective dosages for prevention of graft rejection-dosages that avoid serious systemic effects. This work can pave the way for use in humans, if safe and effective drug dosages in animals can be affirmed.

Dr. Newton is the second recipient of a research fellowship from the



Dr. Catherine Newton

Burroughs Wellcome Fund, which awards \$20,000 each year to an ophthalmologist-researcher working in basic laboratory science. The Fund is financed by the pharmaceutical manufacturer, Burroughs Wellcome Co., and each year's fellow is selected by NSPB's Committee on Basic and Clinical Research.

Eye Injuries

A fruitful collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Statewide Childhood Eye Injury Program (SCIPP), provided NSPB with population based data on the causes of eye injuries to children and adolescents.

Two papers, "Childhood Eye Injuries: A Population Based Study" and "Adolescent Eye Injuries: A Population Based Study" were presented by the Vision Statistics Department at the annual meetings of the Society for Epidemiologic Research and the American Public Health Association, respectively. Some of the findings:

- each year one out of 119 children will sustain an eye injury requiring hospital treatment.
- □ boys are twice as likely as girls to injure their eyes.
- teenagers were injured most often at work.
- ☐ few injuries related to toys were reported.

This study, the first of its kind, highlights the need for further and more detailed investigations into the childhood eye injury problem.

Grants

"Human Retinal Pigment Epithelial Attachment Factors," investigator Melvin S. Oka, Ph.D., Department of Ophthalmology, Cullen Eye Institute, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston.

"Calcium Chelating Agents in Combination with Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs," investigator Richard N. Williams, Ph.D., Department of Ophthalmology, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver.

"Isolation and Assay of Angiogenic Activity from the Aqueous of Eyes with Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy," investigator Patricia A. D'Amore, Ph.D.,* Department of Surgical Research, Children's Hospital Medical Center, Boston.

"Interaction Between Rod and Cone Systems in Human Retinal Disorders," investigator Kenneth R. Alexander, Ph.D., Eye and Ear Infirmary, University of Illinois at Chicago.

"Argon Laser Trabeculoplasty: An animal Model," investigator Idida Abramovsky Kaplan, M.D., Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York.



"Study of Ocular Tissue Cell Lines by 31-P and 13-C Spectroscopy," investigator James Benjamin Aguayo, M.D., Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute, Johns Hopkins Hospital and Medical Institutions, Baltimore.



"Isolation and Characterization of Fatty Acid Binding Protein(s) in the retina," investigator Peggy Sellner, Ph.D., Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles.

"In Vitro Cultivation of Uveitis Inducing Antigens," investigator Charles Edward Thirkill, Ph.D., The Regents of the U. of Calif., Univ. of Calif., Davis Campus, Office of Research, Davis.

"Fiber Cell Messenger RNA of Normal and Cataractous Lenses," investigator Isaac Bekhor, Ph.D.,** Estelle Doheny Eye Foundation, Los Angeles.

"Effects of Eye Position on Visual Processing in the Dorsal Lateral Geniculate Nucleus," investigator Ratneshwar Lal, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, University of Alabama in Birmingham.

"Characterization of the Topography and Distribution of the Main Intrinsic Polypeptide (MIP) in Differentiated Lens Cultures," investigator Paul G. Fitzgerald, Ph.D., Dept. of Human Anatomy, School of Medicine, Univ. of California, Davis.

"Modulation of Experimental Immunogenic Uveitis in Rabbits with Topically Administered Cyclosporine," investigator Renee L. Kaswan, D.V.M., M.S., Dept. of Small Animal Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, Univ. of Georgia, Athens.

"Pathogenesis of Sterile Corneal Ulceration," investigator Michael Dean Wagoner, M.D., Eye Research Institute of the Retina Foundation, Boston.

"Study on the Role of Basement Membrane Glycoproteins and the Molecular form of the Fn-fibrin Provisional Matrix," investigator Tuyet-Mai M. Phan, M.D., Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary, Boston.

"Retinal Uptake of Matrix Macromolecules," investigator Hugh H. Varner, Cullen Eye Institute, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston.

"Mechanisms of Agonist Desensitization in Human Ocular Tissue," investigator Martin B. Wax, M.D., *** Department of Ophthalmology, Scheie Eye Institute, Presbyterian-University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, Philadelphia.

"Transmitter Release from Retinal Photoreceptors," investigator George S. Ayoub, Ph.D., Dept. of Physiology, Univ. of California, San Francisco.

"Corneal Nerve Changes in Herpetic Keratitis," investigator Penny A. Asbell, M.D.,* Department of Ophthalmology, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York.



"Photoreceptor Adaptations to Varying Light Histories," investigator John S. Penn, Ph.D., Dept of Ophthalmology, Cullen Eye Institute, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston.



"Comparison of the Pathophysiological Effects of Prostaglandin F2a with Epinephrine applied topically twice daily for one to two weeks on Cynomolgus Monkey Eyes," investigator Carl Camrus, M.D., Dept. of Ophthalmology, The Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York.

"Microvascular Pericyte Contraction: Role in Vasoproliferative Retinopathy," investigator Ira Herman, Ph.D., Dept. of Anatomy and Cellular Biology, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston.

"Drug Effects on an in vivo Model of Corneal Endothelial Injury," investigator Rhoads E. Stevens, M.D., Eye Research Institute of Retina Foundation, Boston.

"Ocular Mucus in Normal and Diseased States," investigator Peter A. Wells, Ph.D., Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary, Boston.

"Histopathology of Tuneable Dye Laser Photocoagulation in Primates," investigator William E. Smiddy, M.D., The Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore.

"Selective Alpha Adrenergic Antagonists and Aqueous Humor Dynamics," investigator Janet B. Serle, M.D., The Mount Sinai Medical Center, Dept. of Ophthalmology, New York.

"Patch Clamp Analysis of Retinal Neurotransmitters," investigator Scott Mittman, Dept. of Ophthalmology-Room U-490, University of California, San Francisco.



"Corneal Toxicity of Aminoglycoside Antibiotics," investigator Eduardo Alfonso, M.D., Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary, Boston.

* Renewal

** Funded by Adler Foundation

*** Recipient of Virginia S. Boyce Research Fund

Combined Balance Sheet

March 31, 1985 with comparative figures for 1984

<u>Assets</u>	-	1985	1984
Cash (including interest-bearing accounts of \$403,769 in 1985 and \$288,559 in 1984) Short-term investments, at cost (which approximates market) Long-term investments in stocks and bonds (market value of \$4,741,595 in 1985 and \$2,693,658 in 1984) Land, building and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation (note 2) Other assets	\$ \$	1,664,886 3,438,691 4,479,793 1,306,009 164,047 11,053,426	1,081,598 5,733,762 2,738,341 1,148,464 177,793 10,879,958
Liabilities and Fund Balances			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses Accrued vacation and severance pay	_	250,292 251,792	251,412 229,878
Total liabilities	_	502,084	481,290
Fund balances: Current funds: Unrestricted: Designated by the Board of Directors for special purposes Undesignated, available for general activities		1,528,170 4,870,206	2,218,177 4,285,508
Total current unrestricted fund balances		6,398,376	6,503,685
Restricted		1,154,429	1,077,458
Endowment funds Land, building and equipment funds: Expended Unexpended		1,669,933 1,306,009 22,595	1,669,061 1,148,464 —
Total land, bulding and equipment fund balances		1,328,604	1,148,464
Total fund balances		10,551,342	10,398,668
	\$=	11,053,426	10,879,958

See accompanying notes to combined financial statements.

AUDITORS REPORT

The Board of Directors

National Society to Prevent Blindness.

We have examined the combined balance sheet of National Society to Prevent Blindness and affiliates as of March 31, 1985 and the related combined statements of support, revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances and of functional expenses for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We did not examine the financial statements of certain affiliates, which statements reflect total assets constituting 36% and public support and revenue constituting 26% of the related combined totals. These statements were examined by other auditors whose reports thereon have been furnished to us and our opinion expressed herein, insofar as it relates to amounts included for these affiliates, is based solely upon the reports of the other auditors.

In our opinion, based upon our examination and the reports of other auditors, the aforementioned combined financial statements present tairly the financial position of National Society to Prevent Blindness and affiliates at March 31, 1985 and the results of their operations and changes in fund balances for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

New York, NY July 1, 1985

PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL & CO

See accompanying notes to combined financial statements.

Combined Statement of Support, Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended March 31, 1985 Land. with comparative totals for 1984 building Current funds Total all funds Endowment and equip-Unrestricted Restricted funds ment funds 1985 1984 Public support and revenue: Public support. Received directly \$ 2,677,960 670,547 12.815 79.534 Contributions 3,440,856 3.313.147 Legacies 2,109,130 24,705 2.133.835 1.886.098 Special events (net of direct costs of \$410,894 in 1985 and \$366,867 in 1984) 1.087.803 1,087,803 1,073,861 Received indirectly - combined 286,486 service campaigns 286,486 303,245 Total public support 6,161,379 695,252 12,815 79,534 6,948,980 6,576,351 Fees and grants from governmental agencies 88,686 88,686 71,899 Other revenue: 171.098 171.098 178.297 Income from trusts held by others 772.179 30.429 802.608 813.783 Investment income 273,685 Program service revenue 203.844 51,148 254.992 Net gain (loss) on sale of investments (6.822)(6,822)26.427 Miscellaneous 1,297 81,577 1,221,876 1,293,489 Total other revenue 1,140,299 Total public support 7,301,678 865,515 12,815 79,534 8,259,542 7,941,739 and revenue Expenses: Program services: 547,225 398.976 110,382 1,839 Research 435,004 2.123.490 38.881 2.185.595 Public health education 2.025.989 120,725 1,238,816 1,647,904 48,524 9,442 1,705,870 Professional education and training 73,762 1,658,767 1,667,065 Community services 1,264,652 320,353 123,924 5,428,347 6,097,457 5,373,549 599,984 Total program services Supporting services: 29,021 744,495 664,165 711,783 3.691 General and administrative 8,521 1,264,916 1,130,224 Fund raising 1,248,125 8,270 37,542 2,009,411 1,794,389 1,959,908 11,961 Total supporting services 7,222,736 161,466 8,106,868 Total expenses 7,333,457 611,945 Excess (deficiency) of public support (81,932)and revenue over expenses (31,779)253,570 12,815 Other changes in fund balances: Property and equipment acquisitions from 262,072 (141,854)(120.218)current funds 68,324 (56,381)(11,943)Reclassifications, net (note 5) 1,148,464 6,503,685 1,077,458 1,669,061 Fund balances at beginning of year 1,669,933 1,328,604 \$ 6,398,376 1,154,429 Fund balances at end of year

Combined Statement of Functional Expenses

Year ended March 31, 1985 with comparative totals for 1984

		Program services				
		Research	Public health education	Professional education and training	Community services	Total
1 2 3	Salaries Employee benefits Payroll taxes	\$ 152,889 25,434 13,323	885,472 99,047 69,949	841,321 92,389 67,182	916,861 92,848 73,088	2,796,543 309,718 223,542
4	Total salaries and related expenses	191,646	1,054,468	1,000,892	1,082,797	3,329,803
5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Outside services Awards and grants Building occupancy Telephone Office supplies Office equipment maintenance Printing and publications Postage and shipping Visual aids, films, etc. Travel and meetings Professional fees Purchase of mailing lists Insurance Other	38,643 260,382 18,678 1,749 10,229 4 8,183 448 — 15,237 — — — —	16,123 9,889 121,690 61,269 31,568 26,566 412,193 97,974 189,590 61,003 50,676 3,479 3,414 6,812	89,887 251 57,391 19,039 23,712 6,524 38,043 24,195 26,825 380,579 6,003 41 1,026 22,020	20,436 6,784 101,854 70,458 35,483 25,388 46,254 38,832 10,039 74,520 38,692 345 22,046 11,077	165,089 277,306 299,613 152,515 100,992 58,482 504,673 161,449 226,454 531,339 95,371 3,865 26,486 40,096
					 -	
19	Total expenses before depreciation	545,386	2,146,714	1,696,428	1,585,005	5,973,533
20	Depreciation of building and equipment	1,839	38,881	9,442	73,762	123,924
21	Total expenses	\$ 547,225	2,185,595	1,705,870	1,658,767	6,097,457

See accompanying notes to combined financial statements

Notes to Combined Financial Statements

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The National Society and its affiliates (the Society) are not-for-profit organizations exempt from U.S. Federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and have been designated as organizations which are not private foundations.

The combined financial statements include the National Society to Prevent Blindness and its 26 affiliates. All material transactions and balances between the National Society and its affiliates have been eliminated

The accompanying combined financial statements have been prepared in conformity with the industry audit guide entitled *Audits* of *Voluntary Health and Welfare Organizations* published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The significant accounting policies followed by the Society are described below.

Accrual Basis

The combined financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables and payables, other liabilities and prepaid expenses.

Fund Accounting

In order to ensure observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of available resources, the accounts are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. This is the procedure by which resources for various purposes are classified, for accounting and reporting purposes, into funds that are unrestricted or restricted. Externally restricted funds may only be utilized in accordance with the purposes established by the source of such funds and are in contrast with unrestricted funds, which include designated and undesignated funds and amounts invested in land, building and equipment, over which the Board of Directors retains full control to use in achieving any of the Society's purposes.

Endowment funds are subject to the restrictions of gift instruments requiring in perpetuity that the principal be invested and that the income only be utilized.

The land, building and equipment fund is used to account for the investment in fixed assets and for unexpended resources, if any, restricted by donors for the acquisition of fixed assets.

Supporting services

	General and admin-	Fund		Total		
_	istrative	raising	Total	1985	1984	
1	305,975	378,339	684,314	3,480,857	3,329,294	
3	22,010 44,272	40,415	62,425 75,152	372,143 298,694	362,192 256,549	
4	372,257	449,634	821,891	4,151,694	3,948,035	
5	82,418	87,207	169,625	334,714	80,860	
6	383	2,191	2,574	279,880	238,362	
7	6,800	42,039	48,839	348,452	331,592	
8	6,607	12,592	19,199	171,714	158,103	
9	20,164	16,386	36,550	137,542	132,718	
10	28,701	4,446	33,147	91,629	79,242	
11	25,222	295,298	320,520	825,193	654,773	
12	15,270	176,142	191,412	352,861	394,750	
13	4,557	1,972	6,529	232,983	187,747	
14	32,673	20,323	52,996	584,335	492,848	
15	81,983	61,319	143,302	238,673	206,353	
16	6	70,320	70,326	74,191	72,505	
17	17,377	1,109	18,486	44,972	46,427	
18	21,056	15,417	36,473	76,569	64,262	
19	715,474	1,256,395	1,971,869	7,945,402	7,088,577	
20	29,021	8,521	37,542	161,466	134,159	
21	744,495	1,264,916	2,009,411	8,106,868	7,222,736	

All gains and losses arising from the sale, collection, or other disposition of investments and other noncash assets are accounted for in the fund which owned such assets. Ordinary income derived from investments, receivables, and the like is accounted for in the fund owning such assets, except for income derived from investments of endowment funds, which income is accounted for in the fund to which it is restricted or, if unrestricted, as revenue in the current unrestricted fund.

All other unrestricted revenue is accounted for in the current unrestricted fund. Restricted gifts, grants and endowment income are accounted for in the appropriate restricted funds.

Investments

Investments are recorded at cost or fair value at date of receipt in the case of gifts or legacies.

Legacies and Trusts

The Society and its affiliates are the beneficiaries under various wills, the total realizable amount of which is not presently determinable. Such amounts are recorded when clear title is established

and the proceeds are clearly measurable. The Society and its affiliates are the income beneficiaries under various trusts, the corpuses of which are not controlled by the Society, and accordingly are not reflected in the accompanying combined financial statements Distributions from these trusts are recorded as unrestricted revenue when received

Other significant accounting policies are set forth in the financial statements and the following notes.

(2) LAND, BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT AND DEPRECIATION

Land, building and equipment are recorded at cost or fair value at date of receipt in the case of gifts or legacies. Depreciation of building and equipment is provided on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. At March 31, 1985 and 1984, the recorded values of such assets were as follows:

	1985	1984
Land Building Equipment	\$ 135,409 688,765 1,283,984	135,409 658,211 995,527
	2,108,158	1,789,147
Less accumulated depreciation	802,149	640,683
Less accumulated depreciation	802,149 \$1,306,009	640,683 1,148,464

(3) PENSION PLANS

The Society has contributory annuity pension plans covering all employees who meet the minimum age requirement. Total pension expense under the plans was approximately \$88,500 and \$88,000 for the years ended March 31, 1985 and 1984, respectively.

(4) LEASE COMMITMENTS

The Society occupies certain operating facilities under various lease arrangements. Total rent expense under such arrangements was \$348,452 for the year ended March 31, 1985.

A summary of noncancellable long-term lease commitments follows:

Year ending March 31	Amount
1986	\$ 168,088
1987	98,984
1988	4,512
1989	3,412
1990	2,848

Real estate taxes, electricity, water and maintenance expenses are obligations of the Society. It is expected that in the normal course of business, leases that expire will be renewed or replaced by leases on other properties; thus, it is anticipated that future rent expense will not be less than the amount incurred in 1985.

(5) RECLASSIFICATION OF FUND BALANCES

During the year ended March 31, 1985, the Society's independent affiliates reclassified \$68,324 to the proper fund groups.

The National Society is supported entirely by contributions, memorial gifts, bequests and legacies.

We gratefully acknowledge this support which makes possible the programs described in the Report.

Besides the thousands of individuals who donate so generously, the Society is supported by foundations, corporations, and other organizations which include:

Equitable Life Assurance Company

Adler Foundation, Incorporated Alcoa Foundation Alcolac Inc. Allied Corporation Allied Prestolite Battery Altschul Foundation, The Amerace Corporation American Motors Corporation Apple Bank for Savings Asarco Foundation Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company Autzen Foundation Baltimore Gas & Electric Company Beefeater Foundation Herbert & Eileen Bernard Foundation Fred J. Brunner Foundation Brunswick Foundation Burroughs Wellcome Company Butler Manufacturing Company Foundation Buttenheim Foundation, Inc. C&L Data Systems Carlton House Inc. Carpenter Technologies Corporation Carter Family Foundation Caterpillar Tractor Company Cedar Fund Celanese Corporation Central Business Men's Club Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation Chaveriat Foundation Chemdan Corporation Chemical Bank Clark Foundation, The B. A. Coe & Company Sol Cohn Foundation Continental Corporation Foundation Copperweld Steel Foundation Craigmyle Foundation Crane Company Cumberland Steel Corporation Delco Remy Delta Gamma Foundation **Dun & Bradstreet Corporation Foundation**

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Bequests of all sizes have helped to make possible the sight saving activities of the Society since its establishment in 1908.

The Society's record of careful management insures the enduring usefulness of funds entrusted to its care. You can assure the Society of continued financial support by using the following bequest form:

I give and bequeath to the National Society to Prevent Blindness, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York, the sum of \$_____

for its corporate purposes.

Like all other gifts to the Society, bequests by will of money, securities, a house, other real or personal property, the residue of an estate, or any part of it are, of course, tax deductible. Before making a gift of substance, you should consult your lawyer. You may also write to the Society.

National Society to Prevent Blindness 79 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016

The annual report of the National Society to Prevent Blindness is on file with the New York Department of State, 162 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12231 or at our office

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